

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 007447

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE

UNCLAS STATE 007447

TOSEC 46

WHITE HOUSE PLS PASS SAM 86970

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 007447 ACTION JERUSAEM INFO

TEL AVIV JAN. 13,

QUOTE

UNCLAS STATE 007447

TOSEC 46

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

HERewith ROBERT C. TOTH BY-LINER FRONT PAGE SATURDAY LOS ANGELES TIMES HEADED "WHITE HOUSE BLAMES LEAKS IN 1971 ON SECURITY STAFF CLERK":

SAN CLEMENTE - THE WHITE HOUSE FRIDAY BLAMED A LOW LEVEL CLERICAL EMPLOYEE OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL STAFF FOR 1971 LEAKS TO THE NEWS MEDIA OF "EXTREMELY SENSITIVE INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO OTHER NATIONS."

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PAGE 02 STATE 007447

THE SO-CALLED PLUMBERS, A SECRET INVESTIGATIVE GROUP AT THE WHITE HOUSE WHICH MASTER MINDED ELLSBERG BURGLARY, CONDUCTED THE INVESTIGATION OF THOSE DECEMBER 1971 LEAKS. THE WHITE HOUSE DID NOT MENTION THE QUASI-LEGAL GROUP FRIDAY,

HOWEVER.

IT'S STATEMENT CAME IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BASED ON
IT'S STATEMENT CAME IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BASED ON
PUBLISHED REPORTS THAT ADMIRAL THOMAS A. MOORER, CHAIRMAN
OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF HAD AN ADMIRAL ON THE NSC STAFF
OF HENRY A. KISSINGER WHO "SPIED" FOR MOORER ON KISSINGER.

"TODAY'S NEW ACCOUNTS CONVEY AN INCORRECT IMPRESSION OF
THE KNOWLEDGE AND ACTION" OF ADMIRAL MOORER, THE WHITE
HOUSE SAID.

"THE PUBLISHED STORIES," THE WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT CON-
TINUED, "TOUCHED ON A MATTER PERIPHERAL TO THE NATIONAL
SECURITY ISSUE WHICH WAS FOUND TO INVOLVE DELIBERATE
LEAKS TO THE MEDIA OF EXTREMELY SENSITIVE INFORMATION OF
INTEREST TO OTHER NATIONS.

"THE ADMINISTRATION CONSIDERES IT INAPPROPRIATE FOR
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE. IT MAY BE THAT AT A LATER TIME THE
FACTS CAN BE MADE PUBLIC WITHOUT DETRIMENT TO THE NATIONAL
INTEREST," THE STATEMENT SAID.

"UNTIL THEN, HOWEVER, THE MOST THAT CAN PROPERLY BE STATED
...IS THAT THE SOURCE OF THESE LEAKS WAS A LOW LEVEL
EMPLOYEE WHOSE CLERICAL TASKS GAVE HIM ACCESS TO HIGHLY
CLASSIFIED INFORMATION AND THAT TODAY'S NEWS STORY ARE
BASED ON FRAGMENTARY ACCOUNTS OF THE INCIDENT.

"AT THE PRESIDENT'S DIRECTION, THE INFORMATION REGARDING
THIS LEAK AS BEING PROVIDED ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS TO THE
CHAIRMAN OF THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE AND
SENATE, THE SPECIAL WATERGATE PROSECUTOR, AND THE CHAIRMAN
AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE (ON WATERGATE),"
IT CONCLUDED.

WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS HAVE SAID THAT SENATORS SAM ERVIN
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 007447

AND HOWARD BAKER OF THE WATERGATE COMMITTEE AND FORMER
SPECIAL WATERGATE PROSECUTOR ARCHIBALD COX, HAD ACCEPTED
THE WHITE HOUSE VIEW THAT ITS PLUMBERS OPERATIONS IN-
VOLVED A BONA FIDE NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUE.

ERVIN TOLD THE TIMES FRIDAY THAT HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THE
VERSION OF THE INCIDENT PRINTED IN THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE
FRIDAY. "THIS IS NOT THE SAME THING WE WERE BRIEFED ON,
"ERVIN SAID BY TELEPHONE FROM HIS HOME IN MORGANTON, N.C.

THE TIMES PREVIOUSLY LEARNED THAT AN ADMIRAL ON THE NSC
STAFF HAD BEEN FOUND TO BE A SECURITY PROBLEM. THIS
OCCURRED DURING THE PLUMBERS INVESTIGATION OF THE LEAKS

OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE SO-CALLED WASHINGTON SPECIAL ACTION GROUP TO COLUMNIST JACK ANDERSON IN DECEMBER 1971 ON WSAG DELIBERATIONS ABOUT THE INDO-PAKISTANI WAR.

ONE ANDERSON STORY QUOTED KISSINGER AS SAYING THAT PRESIDENT NIXON WANTED THE UNITED STATES TO "TILT MORE TOWARD PAKISTAN," AND ANOTHER SAID THAT MR. NIXON WAS GIVING KISSINGER "HELL EVERY HALF HOUR" BECAUSE PRESIDENTIAL WISHES WERE NOT BEING IMPLEMENTED FAST ENOUGH.

DAVID YOUNG, THE FORMER KISSINGER STAFF MEMBER DETAILED TO JOHN D. EHRLICHMAN'S DOMESTIC COUNCIL STAFF, CONDUCTED THE INTERROGATION OF THE ADMIRAL. THE ADMIRAL WAS FLATLY SAID NOT TO HAVE BEEN THE SOURCE OF THE LEAK TO ANDERSON, HOWEVER, BUT WAS A "SELF-ADMITTED SECURITY PROBLEM -- A MAN WHO WAS NOT HIMSELF," AND WAS BEING TRANSFERRED.

THE TIMES DID NOT PUBLISH THIS INFORMATION BECAUSE SENS. ERVIN AND BAKER AND FORMER PROSECUTOR COX WERE UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE ACCEPTED THE WHITE HOUSE VIEW ON THE SENSITIVITY OF THE BROADER PLUMBERS INVESTIGATION TO WHICH THIS EPISODE WAS ONLY INCIDENTAL.

ASSOCIATED PRESS IDENTIFIED THE ADMIRAL FORMERLY ON THE NSC STAFF AS REAR ADM. ROBERT O. WELANDER, WHO HAD BEEN MILITARY LIAISON OFFICER BETWEEN THE JOINT CHIEFS AND KISSINGER, THE PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 007447

ADVISER AND SECRETARY OF STATE.

WELANDER, ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN FOR ADM. MOORER, WAS TRANSFERRED TO SEA DUTY IN JANUARY, 1972. THE AP SAID THAT WELANDER IS NOW ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS FOR PLANS AND POLICY.

UNCONFIRMED REPORTS SAID THAT THE CLERK WHO WAS FOUND TO HAVE BEEN THE SOURCE OF THE NEWS LEAKS FROM WSAG WAS A NAVY YEOMAN, CHARLES E. RADFORD, ON WELANDER'S STAFF IN THE NSC.

CAPT. JACK MACKERCHER, SPOKESMAN FOR ADM. MOORER, SAID IT WAS "RIDICULOUS AND LUDICROUS" TO ALLEGE THAT THE JOINT CHIEFS HAD A SPY ON KISSINGER'S STAFF OR RECEIVED UNAUTHORIZED INFORMATION. MOORE "NEVER FELT THAT HE LACKED FOR ANY KIND OF INFORMATION HE SHOULD HAVE HAD FROM DR. KISSINGER," MACKERCHER SAID.

"ADM. MOORER HAS THE HIGHEST REGARD FOR ADM. WELANDER;" MACKERCHER SAID, ADDING THAT WELANDER'S TRANSFER WAS NOT CAUSED BY ANY DISSATISFACTION ON THE PART OF THE NAVY.

WELANDER WAS QUOTED LAST WEEK AS DENYING ANY INVOLVEMENT IN UNAUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL INFORMATION. RADFORD WAS QUOTED BY THE WASHINGTON POST FRIDAY AS SAYING THAT HE HAD BEEN FALSELY ACCUSED OF LEAKING INFORMATION TO COLUMNIST ANDERSON, WHOM HE CALLED A FRIEND.

"I WENT THROUGH A MERRY-GO-ROUND OF INTERROGATION," RADFORD WAS QUOTED. "AND I AGREED TO NEVER TALK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AND I NEVER WILL."

INVESTIGATION OF THE NSC SECURITY PROBLEM BY THE PLUMBERS, SOME OF WHOSE MEMBERS WERE LATER INVOLVED IN THE BREAK-IN OF DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS AT THE WATERGATE, WAS BELIEVED TO BE PART OF A STILL SECRET OPERATION OF A HIGHLY SENSITIVE NATURE.

IN HIS UPCOMING LOS ANGELES TRIAL FOR CONSPIRACY, BURGLARY UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 007447

AND PERJURY IN CONNECTION WITH THE PLUMBERS BREAK-IN AT THE OFFICE OF DANIEL ELLSBERG'S PSYCHIATRIST, EHRLICHMAN MIGHT ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY PLUMBER OPERATIONS BY CLAIMING THAT KISSINGER KNEW ABOUT THE NSC SECURITY OPERATION, EHRLICHMAN REPORTEDLY CONTENTS THAT KISSINGER KNEW THAT YOUNG, WHO HAD WORKED FOR KISSINGER AND WAS STILL ON KISSINGER'S NSC PAYROLL DURING HIS WORK FOR EHRLICHMAN, WAS INVOLVED IN THE PLUMBERS OPERATION.

KISSINGER HAS DENIED TWICE UNDER OATH THAT HE KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT THE PLUMBERS, HOWEVER. RUSH

UNQUOTE RUSH

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